

**MINUTES
PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD
COUNTY OF YORK, VIRGINIA
REGULAR MEETING
September 20, 2007**

Meeting Convened. A regular meeting of the York County Parks and Recreation Advisory Board (PRAB) was called to order at approximately 7:00 p.m., Thursday, September 20, 2007.

Attendance. The following members of the PRAB were present: Ms. Donna Simkins, Ms. Sharon Kline, Mr. Jack Christie, Mr. James Elder, Mr. Bill Euker and Mr. Bart Barton. Staff present was Ms. Cheryl Sonderman, Mr. Brian Fuller and Ms. Paulette Parker.

Consideration of Minutes. The minutes of the March 15 and May 17, 2007 meetings were approved. The July 2007 meeting was cancelled.

Presentation on Research Findings of Aging Study. Ms. Parker gave an overview on some of the aging issues facing York County seniors. She confirmed previous information about the County's senior population increasing dramatically over the next two decades. Keys points to consider for seniors are:

1. Prevention - to encourage participation in fitness programs and physical activity in order to maintain good health.
2. Engagement – remaining or becoming active keeps them engaged socially and in the community.

The findings of the Aging Study being conducted also identified four issues that seniors repeatedly mentioned. Those are: transportation, medical services, housing, and community/family support.

Two recreational issues brought out by the study were that in order to meet the demand for services in the future, more activities for seniors will need to be offered and the Senior Center of York facility will need to be expanded.

Ms. Parker provided additional reference material and studies which have been distributed to PRAB members under separate cover.

The PRAB acknowledged that the increasing senior population is not only an important issue facing the County but a national one as well and that effective planning is integral to addressing the needs of this population in the future. The PRAB would like to see some long-range planning efforts focused on this issue with regards to parks and recreational services and facilities.

Sports Field Complex Operational Issues. Mr. Fuller reported that staff is beginning to formulate an operating policy for the Complex and will be seeking input and guidance

from the PRAB over the next year. Some of the issues he mentioned that needed to be discussed were:

1. Establishing scheduling protocols that will determine what groups can and how often they use the complex.
2. Establishing fees for use.
3. Hours of operation.
4. Whether or not to allow dogs in the facility.

Mr. Fuller will be bringing these and other issues forward for discussion in the future in order to prepare a policy for Board of Supervisors approval next fall.

Sports Field Complex Progress Report. Mr. Fuller reported that erosion and sediment control is in place and that the contractor is constructing Pond D. The contractor intends to work from the soccer field area out towards the baseball field area. Weather has been favorable and good progress is being made at this time.

Status Report on the Dog Park Issue. An official response from the Board of Supervisors to the PRAB's letter that was sent in March 2007 has not yet been received. Ms. Simkins stated that she will write another letter to the Board of Supervisors to inquire about the status of their response to the PRAB.

Bikeways/Greenways Planning Efforts. The PRAB asked staff to make arrangements with Ms. Amy Parker to come to the November meeting to give a progress report on these planning efforts.

Matters Presented by the Board. Ms. Simkins discussed the changes to the length of terms served by PRAB members after the PRAB revised their by-laws. PRAB members that were appointed to serve fill vacancies for partial terms agreed to serve two four-year terms if desired by the Board of Supervisors. Ms. Sonderman said that she would work with the Clerk of the Board to adjust the term expiration dates for those members.

Ms. Sonderman also announced that the Board of Supervisors filled the PRAB's vacancy on September 18, 2007. The new member should be attending the next PRAB meeting.

Ms. Kline and Mr. Barton reported on their attendance at the Virginia Recreation and Park Society Conference in Williamsburg. Several topics of interest to them included:

1. Looking into the State's program of assisting localities with a conservation needs assessment.
2. Green infrastructure planning and education.
3. Reviewing the updated draft of the Virginia Outdoors Plan.
4. Purchase of development rights program.
5. Developing a Parks and Recreation Master Plan that would be used as a companion document to the County's Comprehensive Plan.
6. As part of the Master Plan process, hosting some public meetings to gain input from citizens.

7. Pursuing an annual work session with the Board of Supervisors on parks and recreation issues.

Adjournment. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:15 p.m.